

South Puget Intertribal Planning (SPIPA)
submitted the following report via email message on February 22, 2021

Below is the relevant content of the email message

Mr. Anthony Riley
Acting Division Chief, Division of Workforce Development
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Office of Indian Services
U.S. Department of the Interior

South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (hereafter SPIPA), operating under a PL 102-477 Plan, will provide the following services in accordance with SPIPA's approved 477 Plan and its applicable policies.

SPIPA plans to use the CRRSA funds to provide direct childcare services including, but not limited to, the following:

- Childcare subsidy assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farm or food service workers, and/or other essential or frontline workers during the response to the coronavirus pandemic. Childcare subsidies will also be provided to those workers that are classified by each of the participating Tribes as essential. For some Tribes this includes IT staff, Tribal management and administrative staff, and Tribal Social Service program staff.

The SPIPA WFD/477 Program will use CRRSA funds to provide resources including, but not limited to, the following:

- Supplies
- PPE
- Technical assistance to childcare providers to support the implementation of health and safety practices and policies that are in line with the guidance from Washington State, local health departments and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This may include the development and implementation of outdoor focused childcare programming, construction of new childcare centers or renovation of childcare centers to comply with recommended health and safety practices including increased ventilation, limited class size, and the addition of handwashing stations, and the improvement of outdoor activity areas.

The SPIPA WFD/477 Program will also use CRRSA funds to stabilize providers. SPIPA currently pays providers based on childcare enrollment and not attendance as a method to stabilize the supply of childcare providers during the pandemic. SPIPA has established policies and procedures around these efforts and will use CRRSA funds to continue these efforts. In addition, SPIPA has established policies and procedures for increasing payments to providers to cover the increased operational costs associated with the need to sanitize, provide PPE, and provide for the health and safety of children and staff.

The SPIPA WFD/477 Program will follow our approved plan and established policies and procedures in order to provide services to CCDF eligible providers in the service area who may not have previously participated in the program. SPIPA has established a close working relationship with the State of Washington CCDF program and will coordinate any of these services with the State to ensure non-duplication of funds for this purpose. Additionally, SPIPA will add this category of providers to its existing policies and procedures surrounding fraud prevention and over-payment recovery.

The SPIPA approved 477 Plan, the approved waivers, and established policies and procedures will be used to determine eligible expenses other than what has been described in the above statements.

If SPIPA's WFD/477 Program determines any of these funds will be used for construction, then SPIPA will submit a construction or major renovation application no later than July 1, 2021.

Thank you,

Whitney

Whitney Jones
Executive Director



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